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Translation is fun at Key Stage 3

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NICILT UPDATES



Ian Collen

Lecturer in Teacher Education / Director NICILT

Friday 22nd June 2018

NICILT

Northern Ireland Centre for
Information on Language
Teaching and Research

Funded by Department of
Education and based at QUB

Support for teaching of
languages in primary and post-
primary schools

Delivery of PGCE Modern
Languages (11-18)



Department of
Education
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NICILT

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THE LANGUAGE MAGICIAN

Free Online Assessment Game for Year 8/Year 9

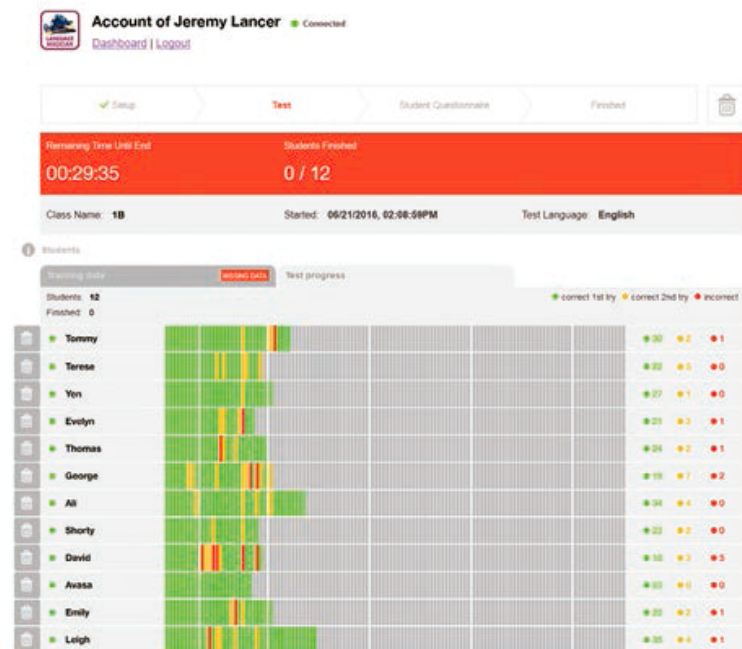
Assesses Listening, Reading and Writing: Ideal for Tracker Tests (CATS)

Monitors Pupil Progression across a year

French/ German / Spanish



www.thelanguagemagician.net



French Events 2018/2019

- Francofest for Key Stage 3 is back! – Free!
- A-level French Debating Competition – Free!
- Careers' Workshops in Schools – Free!
- Adopt a Class – Free!

German/ Irish/ Spanish Events:
see our website for full details





Translation is fun at Key Stage 3



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Traditional Approach

Pupils write a translation on their own

Pupils hand it in for marking by the teacher

Teacher marks and then spends most of the next class going over the translation

Little instruction given about *how* to translate

Like everything, Pupil Perception is key!

Why even worry about translation at KS3?

- Up until 2017, translation was viewed as the preserve of A-level teaching and above;
- Revision of CCEA GCSE specifications for first teaching September 2017 includes translation into and out of the TL **at both foundation tier and higher tiers;**
- This has led to changes in teaching at KS3 and we are in uncharted territory;
- Yes, a small part of new GCSE – but good translation could be the difference in a grade!
- Is form (grammar) more important than communication again?

Have you ever seen your pupils do this...?

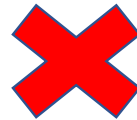
I am called....

Je suis appelé....



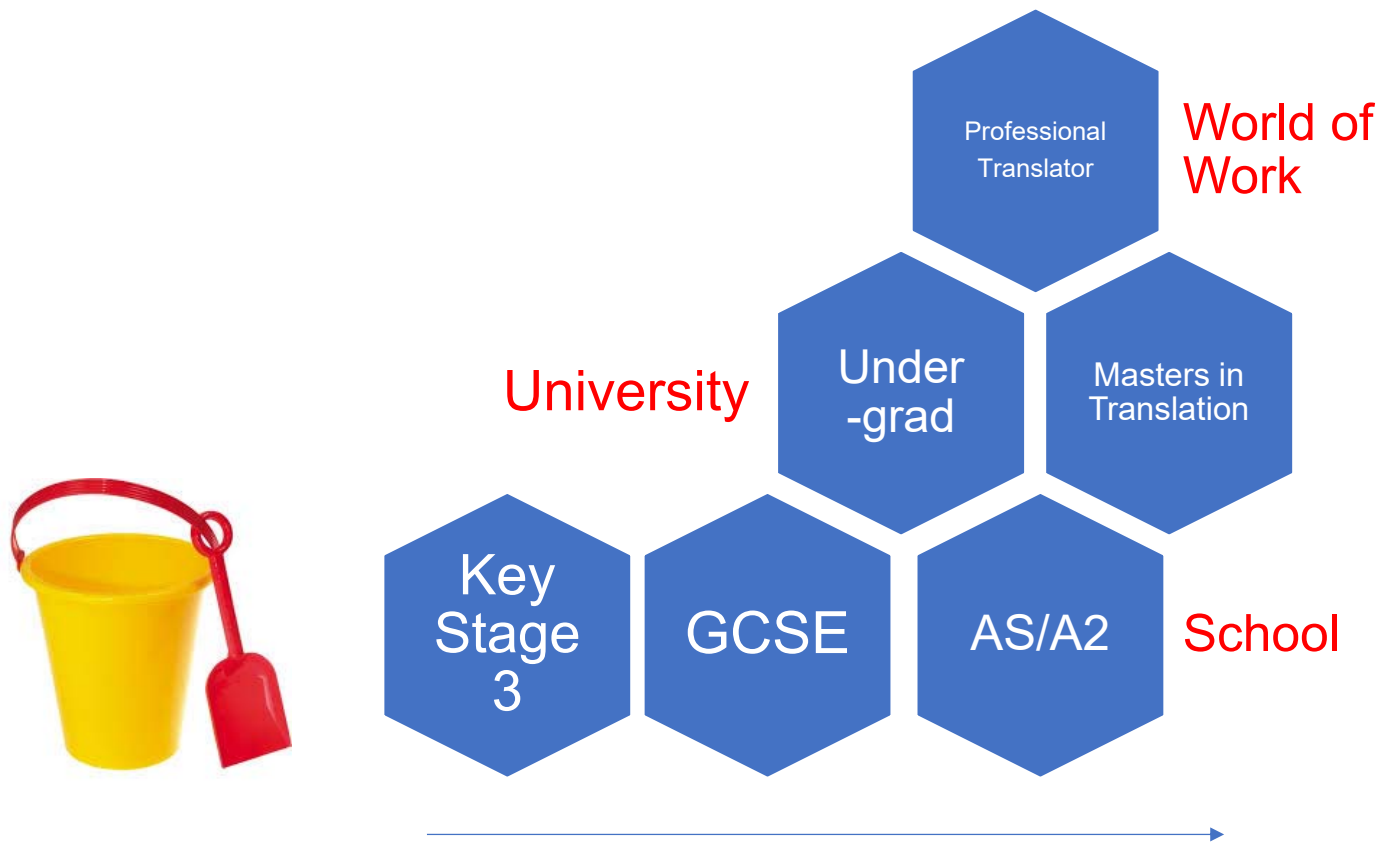
I am doing my homework....

Je suis faire mes devoirs....



Key Stage 3 Translation:

The first step in a life-long career



Translation from French into English

- ‘Essentially a reading activity’ – but is it?
- XCS Literacy/Using Communication
- Avoidance of literal translation
- Promotion of linguistic agility
- As much a test of pupils’ English as their competence in the TL (access for newcomers?)
- Intercultural communication
- Professional translators usually only translate into their mother tongue

Translation from English into French

- Essentially a writing activity
- Test of vocabulary and grammar
- At **word** level, it is about long-term memory, retrieval and retention
- At **sentence** level, it is about active use of vocabulary and grammar
- Basically a **minefield** for all but the most gifted linguists!

Where do we need our KS3 pupils to be?

A-level French

Translate the following passage into French.

My grandfather often tells me about the events of May 68 in Paris. He was a student at the time.

“Young people nowadays are lucky. We changed the world for them. Everything was so different. Parents were strict, teachers even stricter and treated us like babies. We wanted our freedom and were ready to fight to get it.”

My grandmother is less enthusiastic: “We lost a year in our studies. They had to cancel the June exams. Don’t you remember?” she asked. “We were engaged and wanted to get married as soon as possible. Of course, my parents wanted me to finish my degree first and we had to wait until January.” “Well, it was worth it. Our children grew up in a better world.”

GCSE Translation into English

Bonjour! Je m'appelle Jean. J'ai fait un stage professionnel en novembre. J'ai décidé d'aller à la clinique vétérinaire car je voudrais devenir infirmier pour animaux. C'était fantastique et le vétérinaire était très sympa. J'ai toujours aimé les animaux. J'espère avoir les notes nécessaires pour continuer mes études.

(CCEA Specimen Paper 2017, HT)

GCSE Translation into French

- (a) The market costs 5 euros.
- (b) The market is very close to the centre of Paris.
- (c) The market is five minutes from the bus station.
- (d) The market closes at midnight on the 24th of December.
- (e) There are also toilets beside the market.

(CCEA Specimen Paper 2017, HT)

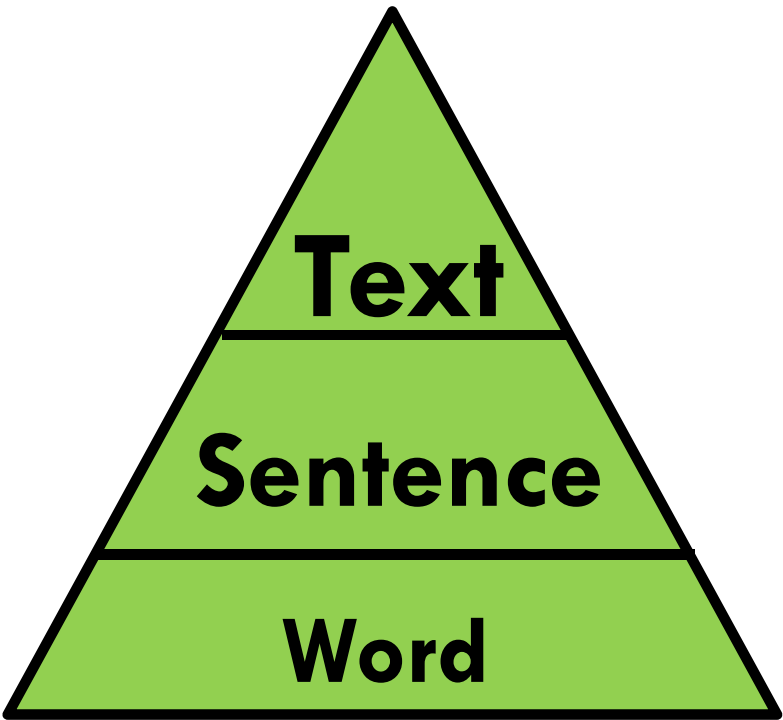
But good teachers have been teaching translation at Key Stage 3 for years?!



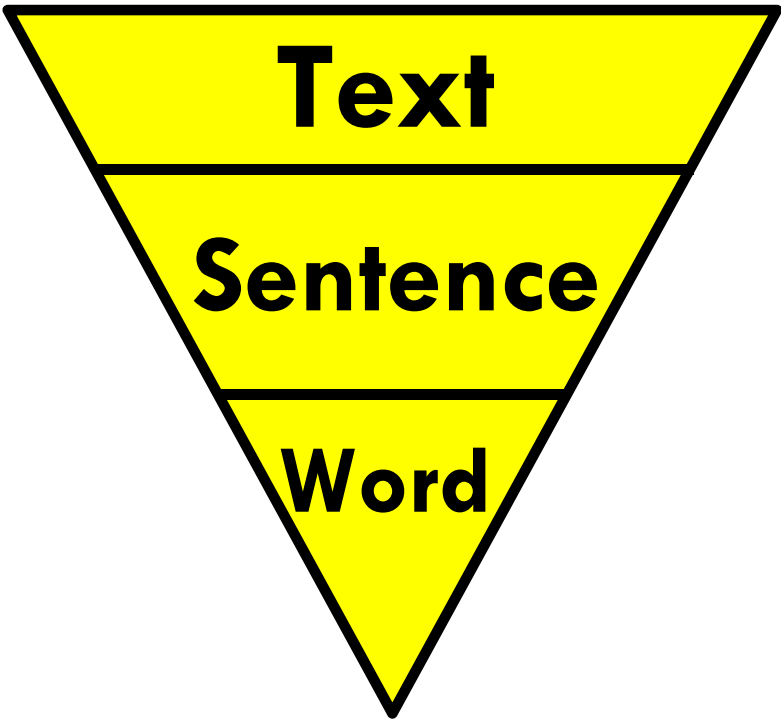
My pupils translate words on Quizlet

A vocab test is translation

KS3: Word Level, Sentence Level, Text Level



Current Practice



Next Practice

Testing Vocab at sentence level

Year 10

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Normally I go on holiday to France |
| 2 | We go by plane (because it's cheap) |
| 3 | I like going to France |
| 4 | because it's hot and sunny |
| 5 | Last summer we went to Italy |
| 6 | We stayed in a hotel/apartment |
| 7 | Every day I sunbathed on the beach. |
| 8 | Next year I am going to go to Spain. |
| 9 | We are going to travel by boat. |
| 10 | We are going to go sightseeing. |

© Rachel Hawkes



10 ideas for making translation fun at KS3



Translation with support

Où j'habite, il y a une super maison des jeunes où je vais tous les mercredis et tous les samedis.

Là-bas, je retrouve mes copains et je joue au baby-foot – j'adore ça.

Aussi, je bavarde avec mes copains ou je joue au billard parce que c'est marrant.

De temps en temps je joue au football ou je joue de la batterie parce que c'est très sympa.

Where _____, there is a super
_____ where _____
every _____ and every
_____.

There, I meet _____
and I _____ -
_____ that.

Also, I _____
_____ or I _____
because _____.

From _____

drums _____
_____.

Parallel Text

Contrastive Analysis of linguistic features of two languages (even add in a third language)

'Safety net' for beginning translators

Translation without support

Où j'habite, il y a une super maison des jeunes où je vais tous les mercredis et tous les samedis.

Là-bas, je retrouve mes copains
et je joue au baby-foot –
j'adore ça.

Aussi, je bavarde avec mes copains ou je joue au billard parce que c'est marrant.

De temps en temps je joue au football ou je joue de la batterie parce que c'est très sympa.

[illegible]

Translation Bloopers



Effective Questioning

What has happened here?

Why does literal translation not work?

How should this have been translated?

Google

Google translate

iPhone App:
Word Lens



One pen, one die

- Groups of two/three/four
- Each pupil has an individual translation task
- One pupil has the pen and begins task
- Other pupil(s) roll a die until they get a 6
- Once they have a 6 they are entitled to take pen
- Great for motivation!

Running Translation

- Select a translation and cut it up into parts
- Put pupils in groups of four
- Give pupils first part of the translation
- In a group, pupils translate and bring to you as the expert for approval
- Once approved, pupils move on to second translation
- Winning team gets a prize!

Primary School Poetry

J'ai perdu mon doudou

Je le cherche partout

A droite

A gauche

En haut

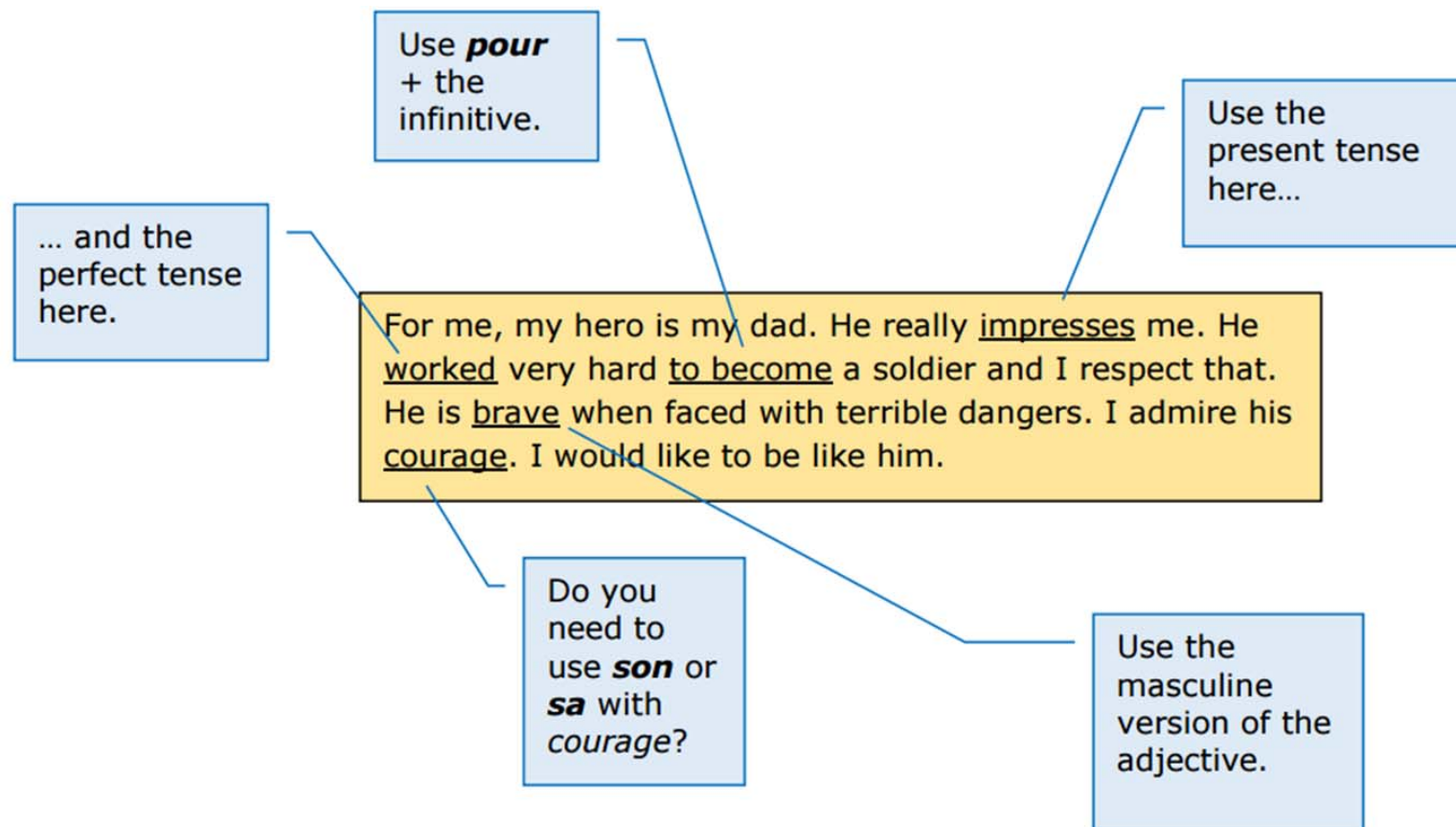
En bas

Ouf ! Il est là-dessous !

Mon doudou !



Parse sentences



A good old-fashioned translation!

Charles is introducing himself, what is he saying?

Salut ! Je suis Charles et j'ai quatorze ans. J'habite dans un appartement à deux kilomètres du collège. À la maison, j'ai un cochon d'Inde qui s'appelle Étienne et un lapin qui s'appelle Paco. Après les cours, je retrouve mes copains et nous jouons au baby-foot.

See the NICILT
website for KS3
Translation
Booklets in
French, German
and Spanish

Translation is fun (well as fun as it can be!)

Don't turn translation into an overt assessment activity at KS3

Pupil perception is key

Integrate as part of your normal teaching and learning; don't make translation seem 'difficult'.

Une solide préparation à l'exercice de la profession de traducteur généraliste du français à l'anglais!





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